



College Preparation Checklist

Pre-High School

- ☐ Start saving for college if you haven't already. Look into college savings plans that your state may offer.
- ☐ Take classes that challenge you.
- ☐ Do your best in school. If you are having difficulty, don't give up—get help from a teacher, tutor or mentor.
- ☐ Investigate which high schools or special programs will most benefit your future interests.
- ☐ Become involved in school- or community-based extracurricular activities that enable you to explore your interests, meet new people and learn new things.

High School

Every Year

- ☐ Continue to save for college.
- ☐ Take challenging classes in core academic subjects: most colleges require 4 years of English, at least 3 years of social studies (history, civics, geography, economics, etc.), 3 years of mathematics, and 3 years of science, and many require 2 years of a foreign language. Round out your course load with classes in computer science and the arts.
- ☐ Stay involved in school- or community-based extracurricular activities that interest you or enable you to explore career interests. Consider working or volunteering. *Remember—it's quality (not quantity) that counts.*
- ☐ Save copies of your report cards, awards, honors and best work for your academic portfolio.
- ☐ Athletes, artists, scholars and others should start collecting items for their portfolios (such as game tapes, newspaper clippings, stats, awards, artwork, photographs, school papers, etc.).

9th Grade

- ☐ Take challenging core classes. (Core subjects are listed above, under "Every Year.")
- ☐ Start planning for college and thinking about your career interests. At www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov you can register with MyFSA and research your career and college options.

10th Grade

- ☐ Continue to take challenging core classes. (Core subjects are listed above, under "Every Year.")
- ☐ Meet with your school counselor or mentor to discuss colleges and their requirements.
- ☐ Talk to adults about what they like and dislike in their jobs and about what kind of education is needed for each kind of job.
- ☐ Consider taking a practice Preliminary SAT (PSAT), or the PLAN exam, also known as the "pre-ACT."*
- ☐ Ask your teachers and counselors whether Advanced Placement classes are offered in your school. You may want to consider taking them in your junior year.
- ☐ Plan to use your summer wisely: work, volunteer and/or take a summer course (away or at a local college).

*Remember: Register for all tests in advance and be sure to give yourself time to prepare appropriately. If you have difficulty paying a registration fee, see your school counselor about getting a fee waiver.